

LONG-RANGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN

KALAUAPAPA NATIONAL  
HISTORICAL PARK

SEPTEMBER 1999



# LONG-RANGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN

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## Kalaupapa National Historical Park

**FINAL**

**September 1999**

The best thing about this disease is that it gave me my own home inside Kalaupapa. The worst thing is that I was not able to care for and bring up my children.

Female/ Part-Hawaiian  
55 years old, 42 years at Kalaupapa

Prepared by  
National Park Service

Kalaupapa National Historical Park

Kalaupapa, Molokai

Interpretive Planning  
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# INTRODUCTION

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Each unit in the National Park System is special and contributes to this nation's natural and cultural heritage. But in the eyes and senses of visitors who have been to Kalaupapa national Historical Park (NHP), this place is extraordinary in its people, resources, scenic beauty, story, and legacy.

Currently, a former Hansen's disease (leprosy) patient and his non-patient employees provide interpretive tours at Kalaupapa through a commercial tour service. The National Park Service (NPS) provides interpretive media, such as brochures and wayside exhibits, and offers some personal services programs both on and offsite.

The NPS and its interpretive partners at Kalaupapa NHP are to preserve and interpret both the tangible (buildings, landscapes, furniture, graveyards, modified utensils, and tools) and the intangible (emotions, attitudes, and beliefs) aspects of lives affected by Hawai'i's isolation policy. Additional tasks are to promote education; to understand the rationale and thinking, however misguided, behind past actions; and to teach tolerance for and acceptance of those suffering from any chronic, infectious disease. There are other resources and park stories as well, including Hawaiian archeology and remnant habitat for Hawaiian flora and fauna.

The National Park Service manages Kalaupapa NHP through cooperative agreements with several state and federal agencies. These include the U.S. Coast Guard; State of Hawaiian Departments of Health, Transportation, and Land and Natural Resources; and Hawaiian Home Lands. The 10,725 acre park is largely in nonfederal ownership.

The challenge of planning for visitor experience at Kalaupapa NHP is in not knowing future directions concerning land ownership, patient status, and the level of federal management within the park boundary. Decisions will be made in the future about continued state funding of the Kalaupapa settlement and levels of NPS management of significant resources within the park boundary. For these reasons, this plan is designed to be flexible.

## PARK PURPOSE

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Purpose statements describe the reasons why Congress established this area as a national park, and what the purposes of the park are today. The purpose of Kalaupapa NHP is to:

- preserve and interpret the Kalaupapa settlement for the education and inspiration of present and future generations;
- provide a well-maintained community in which the Kalaupapa leprosy patients are guaranteed that they may remain at Kalaupapa as long as they wish;
- protect the current lifestyle of these patients and their individual privacy;
- research, preserve, and maintain the present character of the community;
- research, preserve, and maintain important historic structures, traditional Hawaiian sites, cultural values, and natural features;
- provide for limited visitation by the general public;
- provide that the preservation and interpretation of the settlement be managed and performed by patients and native Hawaiians to the extent practical; and to
- provide training opportunities to such persons in management and interpretation of the settlement's cultural, historical, educational, and scenic resources.

## SIGNIFICANCE

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What is significant or meaningful about Kalaupapa NHP? Statements of significance describe why the park and its resources are important to the nation. These statements describe the importance or distinctiveness of the park.

- Kalaupapa NMP is principally recognized as containing the site of Hawai'i's isolation settlement for Hansen's disease (leprosy) patients. The Kalaupapa Leprosy Settlement (within park boundaries) was designated a national historic landmark on January 7, 1976. National historic landmarks are those buildings, structures, sites, or objects determined to be nationally significant in American history and culture. This designation is the principal federal means of recognizing the national significance of historic properties. The historic architecture and cultural landscape of Kalaupapa settlement possess integrity of original location and workmanship, and intangible elements of feeling, association, and visual beauty.
- The surviving (and deceased) Hansen's disease patients are people whose personal stories are essential to understanding the settlement's history and meaning. Their presence, knowledge, and background make the park truly unique in the National Park System.
- The collection of oral histories and interviews conducted over the years with former Hansen's disease patients at Kalaupapa is a rare resource and provides unique insights and information about people living their lives under extraordinary circumstances.
- Kalaupapa NHP was the setting for the work of Father Damien (Joseph De Veuster) and Mother Marianne Cope among Hansen's disease patients; both religious workers are under consideration for sainthood.
- The Kalaupapa settlement may have been one of the prototypes for the 19th and 20th century leprosy isolation settlements throughout the world.
- Kalaupapa NHP includes a portion of the North Shore Cliffs National Natural Landmark (1972). This landmark contains habitat for endangered plant species and nesting sites for native and endangered birds (possibly including seabirds). A national natural landmark is a federal designation identifying, recognizing, and encouraging the protection of sites containing the best remaining examples of ecological and geological components of the nation's natural heritage. This designation is the principal federal means of recognizing these nationally significant properties.

## *SIGNIFICANCE*

- The Kalaupapa Peninsula and surrounding area may be the largest volume, single lava flow from an Icelandic shield volcano (Pu'u 'Uao Volcano, Kauhako Crater) in the Hawaiian Islands.
- The park contains eight Special Ecological Areas (Marine, Coastal Spray, Kauhako Trench/Lava Tube, Kauhako Crater, Cliff, Pu'u Ali'i Plateau, Waikolu Valley) providing rare native habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species.
- Kauhako Crater contains a remnant summer-deciduous dry forest which is one of the few remaining windward coast examples of this community left in the Hawaiian Islands. The crater also contains a unique 800+ foot deep lake with special morphological, biological, and chemical characteristics.
- The park contains two offshore islands, 'Okala and Huelo, providing nesting habitat for endangered birds; both islands are state designated bird sanctuaries. Because humans have never occupied Huelo, it is one of the most pristine natural areas in Hawai'i.
- Numerous lava tubes and caves in the park contain archeological sites and provide habitat for rare flora and fauna; one cave is home to a previously unknown troglobitic isopod.
- The Waikolu Stream provides habitat for native fish and mollusk species and several threatened or endangered plants and animals.
- The archeological sites of Kalaupapa Peninsula and its associated valleys (including stone walls, terraces, planting areas, house sites, living areas, religious shrines) are relatively undisturbed and represent 900-1,000 years of occupation. These sites collectively represent one of the richest and most valuable archeological preserves in the Hawaiian Islands.
- The United States Coast Guard Moloka'i Light is listed on the national Register of Historic Places (1985). At 132 feet it is the tallest U.S. lighthouse in the Pacific Ocean.

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE GIVENS/ISSUES

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Given/Issue: The NPS is required to meet its 1916 mandate to "provide for the enjoyment" of the park's resources and manage them in order to "leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." At Kalaupapa MHP, however, visitation at the park is strictly limited and interpretation is somewhat controlled.

Legislation and geography dictate access to the park. To ensure patient privacy, only 100 people per day are provided permits to visit the peninsula, whether they visit on commercial tours or are friends or relatives of residents. People providing contracted services or who are on official government business are not included within the 100 person per day limit. Physical access is also strictly controlled-everyone on the peninsula (whether arriving by boat airplane, or by hiking trail) must have a permit. Thus, only people who are relatives or friends of residents, or who can afford the commercial tours have physical access to the park. Additionally, no children under age 16 are allowed in Kalaupapa except for very special cases involving families of patients.

Given/Issue: Damien Tours, a patient-owned and operated commercial tour service, provides tours six days a week. In past years, former patients led all tours and visitors received personal first-hand interpretation. But the number of patients able to lead tours has dropped from three to one, and non-patient guides now lead some tours. The NPS has little control or influence over the accuracy of information being provided. At some time in the future the commercial tour operator will no longer be able to provide tours for park visitors; the NPS should be prepared to provide an expanded visitor services and interpretation program.

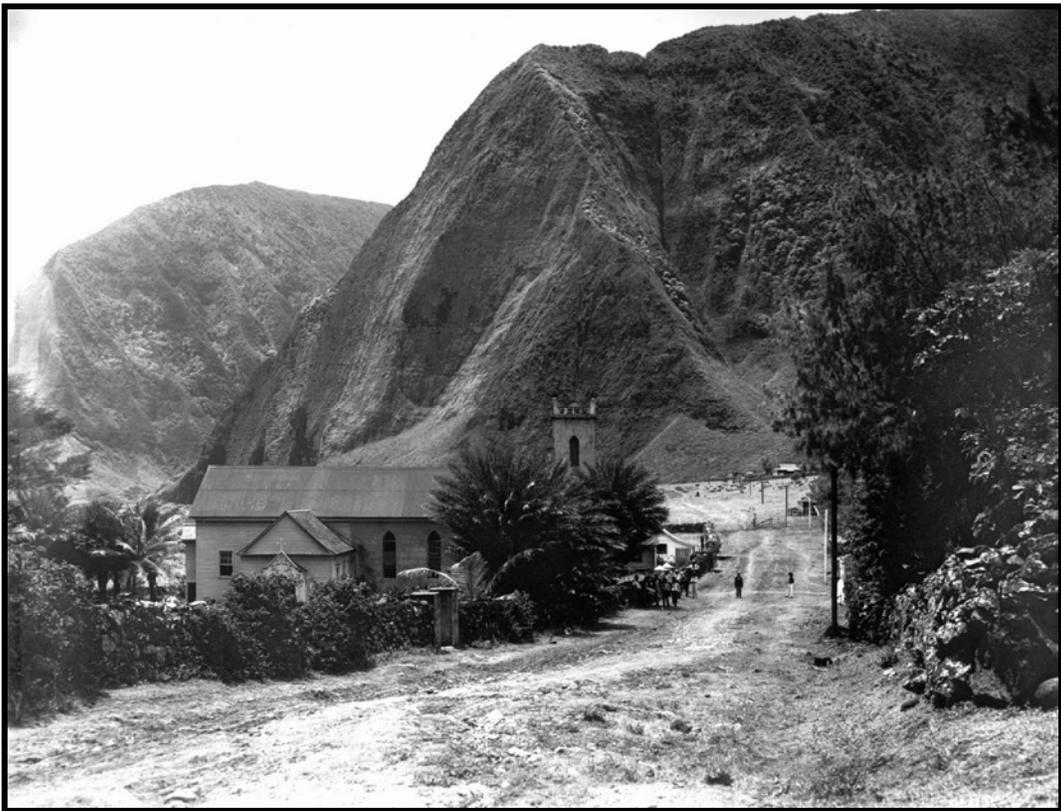
Given/Issue: The NPS does not manage visitation currently, and it is unknown how the visitor experience will be defined and how it will be provided in the future (10-50 years). The 10,725 acre park is largely in non-federal ownership (the NPS owns 25 acres) and is managed by the NPS through numerous cooperative agreements (U.S. Coast Guard; State of Hawaii Departments of Health, Transportation, and Land and Natural Resources; and Hawaiian Home Lands). Because of the lack of NPS land ownership, and decreasing of the patient population, the NPS role and its ability to provide for visitor experience is unknown and in question.

Given/Issue: Kalaupapa settlement is in a state of transition due to the diminishing former Hansen's disease population. It is expected that the Hawaii Department of Health at Kalaupapa will eventually discontinue its health care and other services for people enrolled in the state Hansen's disease program. Discussions are on going among the NPS and its cooperating partners regarding future land management and resource

*VISITOR EXPERIENCE GIVENS/ISSUES*

protection responsibilities. It is expected that future visitation to the park will be less restrictive.

Given/Issue: Air transportation to Kalaupapa may become limited or more expensive in the future, affecting access to the park. The legal obligation for airlines to serve Kalaupapa may be dropped when the Hawai'i Department of Health discontinues operations there at some time in the future.



Kalawao, 1905

# VISITOR EXPERIENCE

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Visitor experience refers to everything that visitors do, sense, feel and learn in a park; it includes behavior, sensory experiences, attitudes, values, and behavior. It is affected by experiences prior to their park visit (how easy or difficult was it to reach the park, did they receive adequate park information prior to their visit etc.) and often, people are affected by their park experiences long after their visit. Visitor experience thus includes time spent reading a wayside exhibit or listening to an interpreter, but also time spent alone or participating in activities. Interpretive planning, also known as planning for visitor experience, describes opportunities.

Visitor experience goals are statements that describe opportunities for visitors. They represent ideal conditions expressed in terms of desired future conditions. Each of these goals leads directly to interpretive media or visitor activities or facilities. These goals help park staff and planners decide among various options for interpretive activities and media.

An Interpretive Concept Plan for six national parks in Hawaii was completed in February 1999. Visitor experience goals common to all six parks are presented below.

## **VISITOR EXPERIENCE GOALS COMMON TO SIX NPS AREAS**

Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park, Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site, Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Haleakala National Park, Kalaupapa National Historical Park

In the future at six national parks in Hawaii visitors will have the opportunity to:

### **orientation**

- learn about all of the national parks in Hawai'i
- obtain accurate information about cultural and natural resources in Hawai'i
- plan their visit for efficient use of time, enjoyment of park resources and an enriching park experience
- become aware of any hazards to their safety

### **activity**

- visit a natural/scenic area or a cultural site

## *VISITOR EXPERIENCE*

- see native plants or animals
- see a variety of volcanic landforms such as lava tubes, craters, and cones
- observe the physical evidence and experience the spirit of Hawaiian culture throughout the islands
- participate in recreation activities that are in harmony with park resources
- gain physical and programmatic access to media, services, and experiences related to each park's significance

### **interpretation**

- understand the geologic processes that formed, and are continuing to form, the Hawaiian Islands and how people adapted to this landscape
- become aware of the special values regarding conservation of the environment encompassed in native Hawaiian ecosystems
- recognize threats to the survival of native Hawaiian species, both plants and animals
- learn about and appreciate native Hawaiian culture as an evolving culture
- form their own intellectual and emotional connections with park resources and Hawaiian people

### **PARK-SPECIFIC VISITOR EXPERIENCE GOALS**

In the future, visitors to Kalaupapa NHP will have the opportunity to:

- sense Kalaupapa's isolation
- experience the intangible aspects of Kalaupapa as an example of a fast disappearing, old, small Hawaiian community
- appreciate the physical beauty of Kalaupapa--the settlement peninsula, sea cliffs, and ocean
- interact with local residents
- see beyond past; illness to recognize that the Hansen's disease patients are individual human beings

#### *VISITOR EXPERIENCE*

- learn about the patients' lives and accomplishments through their own words
- feel the triumph of the human spirit
- know the power of the human touch, once denied to Hansen's disease patients sense the spirituality evident at Kalaupapa
- learn about the history, meaning of, and lessons learned from the Kalawao and Kalaupapa settlements and the Hawaiian isolation policy
- learn about and have physical or visual access to the peninsula's natural resources (remnant ecosystems, coral reefs, water, flora, fauna, geology, night sky, quiet)
- learn about aspects of Hawaiian culture and history as represented in the peninsula's archeological sites
- participate in a variety of activities within the park; activities related to the park's stories, respectful of the patients and their privacy, and consistent with the park's natural and cultural values

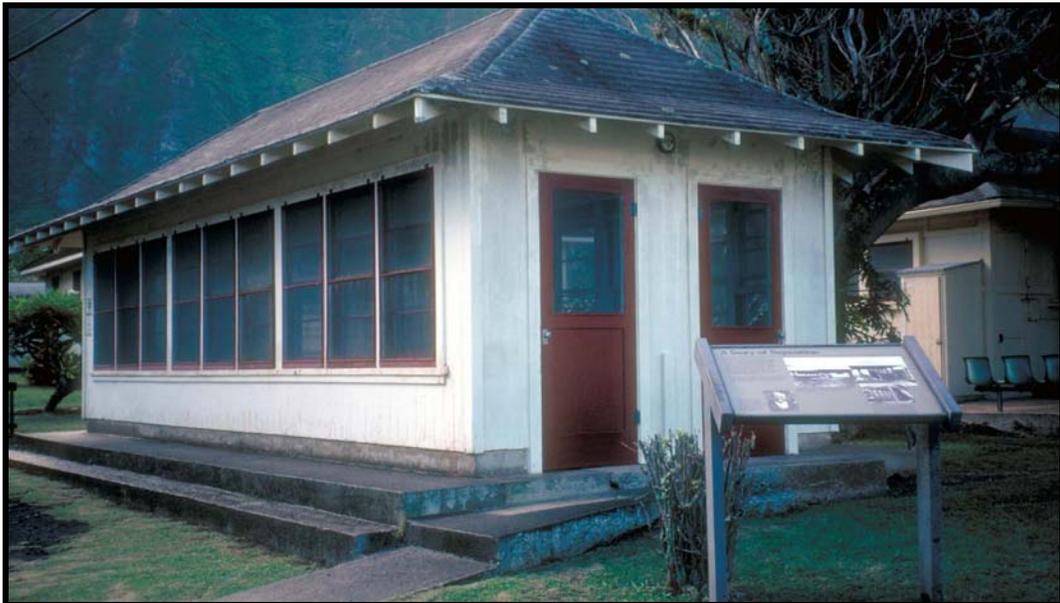
# INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Is an educational activity that goes beyond a simple recital of facts and figures. Interpretation reveals larger truths behind statements of fact by fostering a connection between the interests of visitors and the meanings of a resource. The intangible meanings and relationships associated with tangible natural and cultural resources are explored, so that visitors are provoked to draw their own conclusions or make their own connections based on something within their own personality or experience. Skilled interpreters do this through the use of original objects, through firsthand experience, and through illustrative media. Interpretation, at its best is an effective communication process for accomplishing goals and delivering messages.

We are like people any place else. We love, marry, drink, murder, commit suicide, fight. We have all the human drama. We are everything you are on the outside. Just like that--life is life.

Male, Part-Hawaiian  
70 years old, 57 years at Kalaupapa and Hale Mohalu



# INTERPRETIVE THEMES

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The following ideas are critical for visitor understanding and appreciation for the park's purpose and significance. Themes are the key concepts that every visitor should have the opportunity to learn. The themes are interrelated and some of them are followed by subthemes, or supporting statements.

Some of these themes tie the park and its resources to other national parks in Hawai'i; other themes are very specific to Kalaupapa NHP. The close physical proximity and shared visitation of these six national parks in the state of Hawai'i offers a variety of interpretive opportunities. The ability to interpret shared natural and cultural systems as opposed to separate "island" parks is of foremost importance. The contextual themes below are from the Interpretive Concept Plan, February 1999.

## **THEMES COMMON TO SIX NPS AREAS**

Puuhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park, Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site, Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Haleakala National Park, Kalaupapa National Historical Park

The following interpretive themes are the common threads tying together six separate parks into a whole cloth:

*The Hawaiian Islands were formed through volcanic processes that continue today.*

*The results of millions of years of volcanic activity has created diverse landscapes in the Hawaiian island chain which display various stages of island building, erosion, and subsidence.*

*Over millions of years, species of plants and animals colonized the Hawaiian Islands at the rate of roughly one every 70,000 years; the astounding diversity of life that flourished on these isolated, once-barren islands bears witness to the forces of evolution and adaptation, and the tenacity of life.*

*Beginning with the Polynesians and continuing into today, humans have produced tremendous changes in the Hawaiian Islands' native ecosystems resulting in the loss of many native species and the introduction of many alien plants and animals.*

## INTERPRETIVE THEMES

*Polynesians crossed more than 2,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean and became well established in Hawai'i over 1,500 years ago; these remarkable sailor-navigators in their voyaging canoes were fully outfitted to set up viable colonies.*

*Native Hawaiian people thrived in this isolated archipelago due to careful management of resources within the ahupua'a; land was organized and resources shared to sustain relatively large populations.*

*Evidence of Hawaiian settlement provides insights into the life and ways of Hawaiians--their highly stratified society with strictly maintained classes, system of laws (kanawai), sense of personal responsibility (kuleana), and rich and varied community life.*

*After western contact the people and native environment of Hawai'i were changed forever.*

*Kamehameha the Great, whose lineage and life was rooted in the past, unified the Hawaiian Islands by 1810, instituted changes in land tenure and in the hierarchical structure of Hawaiian society, and set up a government which incorporated both the old and the new.*

*Hawaiian cultural tradition is a rich, evolving heritage that can be experienced firsthand in the islands.*

## **PARK-SPECIFIC THEMES**

Visitors to Kalaupapa NHP would have the opportunity to learn about these aspects of the park's significance:

### **PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES**

#### **1. The People**

*Hawaiian people inhabited Kalaupapa Peninsula for hundreds of years, and the evidence of their habitation (including pre- and post-contact archeological sites) reflects human adaptation to the natural environment.*

Kaiaupapa NHP illustrates the Hawaiian land system of ahupua'a. (Kalaupapa, Makaanalua, Kalawao) running from the ocean to the mountains and providing food sources from the sea, cultivated lands, and forest.

## INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Archeological sites on the peninsula include house sites, walled enclosures, heiau, agricultural terraces, and dry-laid stone retaining walls; these sites have high integrity and provide knowledge of the native Hawaiians living on the peninsula before the establishment of leprosy settlements.

Manqo, taro (kalo), mountain apple (ohi'a), breadfruit, papaya, bananas, candlenut (kukui), pili grass, sweet potato ('uala), paper mulberry (wauke), and other plants with Polynesian and Hawaiian cultural associations can be found on the peninsula and throughout the settlement, and can contribute to the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture.

*Afflicted with a dreaded disease, and once forcibly exiled from family and friends, Hansen's disease patients at Kalaupapa continue to show strength, self-dignity, faith, humor, and joy in living.*

Exile to Kalaupapa was a death sentence for over 80 years before the discovery of sulfone drugs in the 1940s.

Physical isolation on Kalaupapa Peninsula meant social isolation from family and friends.

In the early years of Kalawao settlement living conditions were difficult despite sizable appropriations and donations. Hansen's disease patients did not have much help and were expected to be self-sufficient and survive the best they could on their own. Patients continue to help themselves and each other in the spirit of kokua, making the best of their situations.

There are many individual stories of day-to-day battles of dealing with illness.

Many aspects of "normal" life were denied to Hansen's disease patients because of their banishment to Kalaupapa Peninsula.

Patients married, had children, and survive today.

Despite the circumstances of their arrival at Kalaupapa, the settlement is "home" today for many former Hansen's disease patients.

*Care givers of many religious, medical and national backgrounds went willingly to the Kalawao and Kalaupapa isolation settlements to provide care, improve the quality of life, and offer human comfort to leprosy patients.*

## INTERPRETIVE THEMES

*Na kokua* were voluntary companions (friends and relatives) who placed themselves at personal risk when they accompanied banished loved ones to Kalaupapa.

Various Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints churches, organizations, and religious orders offered medical care and other assistance to patients in the isolation settlements.

Father Damien's (Joseph De Veuster) persistence, commitment, advocacy, and love for Hansen's disease patients at Kalawao settlement are known around the world. Both he and Mother Marianne Cope, known for her work in Honolulu and Kalaupapa, are under consideration for sainthood.

Health workers from state and federal agencies contributed to the study and treatment of Hansen's disease at Kalaupapa.

### **2. The Place**

*Kalaupapa's physical isolation has helped protect a remnant native ecosystem, with habitat for rare endemic plants and animals on the peninsula and surrounding pali, ocean and islands.*

Pu'u 'Uao Volcano, with its Kauhako Crater, formed the Kalaupapa shield; caves and lava tube systems developed under the volcano's *pahoehoe* basalt flows.

Kalaupapa's natural features, including its marine resources, climate, Soils, and fresh water, supported human life on the peninsula.

The near shore coral reef is intact unpolluted, and provides habitat for many reef fishes and crustaceans.

Threats to the native ecosystem stem from degradation and competition from incompatible human and animal activities.

Kalaupapa's physical beauty, comprised of verdant *pali*, waterfalls, lava fields, lush vegetation, streams, and surrounding ocean, is rarely surpassed anywhere in the world.

Hawaiian culture, with its *ahupua'a* land system and aqua cultural and agricultural practices, influenced the current landscape.

*The patterns of development and cultural landscape seen in Kalawao and Kalaupapa reflect transitions in the treatment and response to Hansen's disease, from the earliest reliance upon native Hawaiian housing and foods at the Kalawao*

*isolation settlement to a highly organized, relatively self-sufficient medical and social community at Kalaupapa.*

A large Hawaiian population lived on the peninsula (including villages at Kalawao and Kalaupapa) when the first isolation settlement was established in 1865. Much of this population was moved, and their homes and fields used in an attempt to sustain leprosy patients during the early years.

The stages of settlement development (1866-1875 pioneer Kalawao isolation settlement period, 1875-1889 Kalawao isolation settlement, and 1889-present Kalaupapa isolation settlement) can be traced in the 240 historic structures and monuments, and cultural landscape at Kalaupapa.

Over time, the day-to-day community life at Kalaupapa grew to include social halls, ethnic clubs, bars, sports activities and dances, gambling, movies, hobby shows, holiday pageants and more.

Kalauoapa retained its connections over the years with Hansen's disease facilities on O'ahu (Kapi'olani Home, Kalihi Hospital, Kaka'ako Branch Hospital, and Hale Mohalu).

The 1909 U.S. Coast Guard Moloka'i Light guided westbound vessels from the United States, Panama, and South American ports into Honolulu, and is one of the few original lighthouse structures in Hawaii still in use.

### **3. The Disease**

*Hansen's disease (leprosy) was dreaded around the world for centuries as God's wrath; thought incurable, its causes unknown, its contagiousness feared, and its victims cast out from society as "unclean."*

Hansen's disease in the kingdom of Hawai'i became epidemic after the 1850s, resulting in forced separation and isolation of sufferers, a concept unknown and resented in Hawaiian society.

The evolution of treatment, and response to, Hansen's disease patients (from banishment, isolation, and separation to current medical outpatient treatment) can be traced at Kalaupapa.

Medical discoveries and investigations of Hansen's disease occurred at Kalaupapa health facilities.

There are many lessons learned at Kalaupapa that can be applied worldwide for the treatment and response to Hansen's disease and to other diseases, notably HIV/AIDS.

**SECONDARY INTERPRETIVE THEME**

**The Park**

*Kalaupapa National Historical Park was established through the collaborative efforts of the Hansen's disease patients, and state and federal governments; these efforts reflected the common goal of protecting all resources, and remembering all people, associated with the Kalaupapa Peninsula.*

## COMPELLING STORIES

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But leprosy is leprosy. It will take many years to wipe out the prejudice and fear people have of us. It will take a long time before they figure out we are just people.

Female, Japanese  
70 years old, 40 years at Kalaupapa

Inside, we were once prisoners, but now we are free. My freedom is inside, not outside.

Male, Portuguese  
49 years old, 54 years at Kalaupapa

Compelling stories are those universal concepts and meanings relating to the human experience that can help visitors understand the intangible aspects of very tangible resources such as buildings, objects, landscapes, and photographs. Compelling stories are often the product of individual insight.

Any of the phrases below, presented in context through personal services, interpretive media, or from the Hansen's disease patients themselves, would encourage visitors to understand the meaning of these ideas and values, and make connections to their own personal experiences.

Survival in the face of overwhelming odds  
Society's inhumanity towards victims of a disfiguring illness  
Dignity in personal accomplishments  
Triumph over adversity  
Spirituality to be found in people and in the land  
Compassion towards others  
Faith in God and in people  
Fear of discovering the disease  
Prejudice and discrimination due to ignorance  
Separation from families and friends  
Rejection from society  
Freedom from effects of the disease  
Happiness in a newfound life and extended family and friends  
Standing up for civil rights  
Maintaining self-respect

## DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

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The majority of people visiting the Hawaiian Islands are not able to visit the Kalaupapa Peninsula itself due to visitation limits and the cost and time involved. However, people can see the peninsula and the settlement through several different means.

On topside Moloka'i people can view the Kalaupapa Peninsula from an overlook at Pala'au State Park. The breathtaking view from the overlook is of the ocean, peninsula, settlement and sea cliffs. The NPS wayside exhibits present aspects of the settlement history as well as discussions of Hansen's disease.

Other visitors view the park from the air. Commercial airline flights and helicopter tours fly over the peninsula, allowing visitors a "birds-eye" view of the scenery and the settlement.

Visitors who can physically get to Kalaupapa settlement fall into three principal categories. Kalaupapa residents, be they former Hansen's disease patients, state health employees or NPS employees, can sponsor family and friends as visitors. Other visitors tour the park on a commercial tour. Still others arrive as volunteers, usually in groups, to perform service work.

For sponsored visitors there is some freedom of movement, but there are also rules and regulations governing conduct in the settlement. Everyone is required to register and sign a Department of Health permit to enter the settlement. Visitors must be in the company of their sponsor when walking or riding beyond the settlement boundary. No children under age 16 are allowed; children aged 16-18 must apply for a permit before their visit and must be accompanied at all times by a parent or designated adult. Exceptions are made in special cases involving family of patients. No photographs of patients are allowed without prior written permission.

There are no restaurants in the settlement, but snacks, soda, and beer are available at a local bar. There is no hunting or firearms allowed, no camping, no surfing, no scuba diving, no pets, and no opihi picking on the peninsula. Pole fishing is allowed as long as state fishing rules and regulations are followed. People can stay in private homes or at the Kalaupapa visitors quarters (for a nominal fee).

Sponsored visitors can walk anywhere within the settlement. They can view the numerous NPS wayside exhibits, visit the Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) Hall visitor center with its artifact displays and photographs, buy books and postcards from the park's cooperating

## DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

association (Arizona Memorial Museum Association), and purchase souvenirs and crafts at the patient/staff craft store. Generally, they can go anywhere and do anything the residents do in the settlement during the course of every day activity.

People on commercial tours have several options to get to the Kalaupapa Peninsula (when tours are booked/ visitors automatically are issued permits). They can hike the three-mile Kalaupapa Trail and be picked up at the lower trailhead by the Damien Tour bus. Another option is to ride a mule down the trail to meet the tour bus. The mule rides are offered by an NPS concession, Molokai'i Mule Rides, Inc. Visitors arrive at the mule barn north of Kalae where they receive orientation and a park brochure. Interaction with the local muleskinners is an extra memorable visitor experience.

The Kalaupapa Trail offers hikers and mule riders with an open vista of peninsula, sea cliffs and ocean. They can read about the trail's history on a wayside exhibit, learn about mule temperaments and sure-footedness, and count-off 26 switchbacks as they make their way to the beach and tour bus pickup point 1,700 feet below.

Other visitors choose to fly into Kalaupapa Airport. There are several regularly scheduled and charter flights available from Ho'olehau Airport on topside Moloka'i, and from O'ahu and Maui. These visitors meet the tour bus at the airport. There are several NPS wayside exhibits (duplicates of those at the state park overlook) located inside and outside the open air terminal. The park brochures are available here.



Tours of Kalawao and Kalaupapa last approximately three and one-half hours. Damien Tours is patient-owned and operated; the guides are a

## DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

former Hansen's disease patient or tour company employees. The tour bus stops at several locations within the settlement, and visitors are allowed off the bus. Locations of stops include the Kalaupapa loading dock, Father Damien monument Mother Marianne grave, AJA Hall, craft shop, and the churches at Kalawao. Box lunches are provided; visitors eat at the picnic pavilion at Judd Park with cliff and ocean views. The tours end at the airport for the flyers, and at the trailhead for hikers and mule riders.

In the past former Hansen's disease patients served as guides for all tours. They offered first-hand experiences and their heartfelt stories, jokes, outlook, and open honesty at answering visitor questions made these tours memorable and sometimes emotional. Currently, only one guide is a former patient and long-time resident. On most days non-patient tour employees give the tours. The special quality of the tours, for the most part has been lost. Additionally, the NPS has little or no influence on the tour content or on quality of delivery.

People who donate volunteer hours in the community are usually re-warded with tours of the park and time spent with residents. In 1998 over 150 people volunteered over 2,000 hours of work for park resource protection projects alone. All three churches in Kalaupapa sponsor volunteer efforts as well.

For the past few years park staff have traveled to "topside" Moloka'i to present interpretive programs to Elderhostel groups, sponsored by the Moloka'i Museum and Cultural Center (Meyer Sugar Mill) in Kala'e. Participants have the choice of following up with a visit to the park.



For mainland and international visitors who cannot travel to Moloka'i, Kalaupapa NHP maintains a web site on the Internet (<http://www.nps.gov/kala>) to provide a "virtual" tour. Interpretation of park resources and themes is being offered through this media.

### **Visitor Profile**

The NPS has never conducted a survey to develop a profile of Kalaupapa NHP's visitors. It is expected that the nature of visitation to the park most likely parallels visitation to the state. The park does attract visitors from

## DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

around the state, from the mainland United States, and from other countries. Obviously, there are few visitors under the age of 16 years. As described, visitors arrive by airplane, boat, on foot, or by mule. In 1998 the following counts were made:

Overlook visitors	71,876
Visitors by Mule	1,971
Visitors Hiking	113
Visitors by Plane	8.234

Yearly visitation statistics at the park have been recorded for only a few years. The visitor count for 1994 and 1995 includes only people visiting the settlement. A traffic counter was installed in 1996, and the count for 1996-1998 includes people at both the Pala'au State Park, Kalaupapa Overlook and the Kalaupapa settlement:

1994 –	6,502
1995 –	7,495
1996 -	55,100
1997 –	76,000
1998-	85,468

## Park Story and Resources

### The Land

Translated, Kalaupapa means the 'flat leaf.' As you step off an airplane at Kalaupapa Airport and turn to look towards the cliffs, or look down at the peninsula from topline Moloka'i, you understand how the Hawaiian place name describes this land. The peninsula appears to be an afterthought. It seems "stuck" to the rest of the island, at the base of sheer cliffs, like a thumb to the rest of your hand.

Indeed, the peninsula was formed much later than the rest of the island. Two shield volcanoes formed Moloka'i, Mauna Loa to the west and Kamakou to the east. The north coast of the eastern half of the island faces the ocean with sheer cliffs, the result of a giant landslide more than 400,000 years ago. Deep, steep valleys were subsequently cut into the cliffs by stream erosion. At Kalaupapa, three valleys, Waikolu, Wai'ale'ia and Waihanau are bordered on three sides by cliffs 1,600 to 5,000 feet high.

About 250,000 years ago, long after Mauna Loa and Kamakou became extinct another small shield volcano appeared against the north cliffs. This volcano, named Pu'u'Uao formed a relatively flat triangle of land through continuous flows of *pahoehoe* lava. The Kalaupapa Peninsula is two miles from the cliffs to the tip, and two-and-one-half miles in width at the base of the cliffs, an area approximately 12 square miles. The volcano remnant

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Kauhako Crater, is over 450 feet deep with a pool of brackish water at the bottom over 800 feet deep.

It is the scenery that catches your breath. All of the elements come Together--the cliffs, ocean, blue sky in summer, mist and rain in winter to form a spectacular backdrop for human and natural history. Kalaupapa is home not only for people, but for threatened and endangered native Hawaiian plants and animals as well.

Within Kalaupapa NHP's 10,700+ acre boundary are remnants of native plant and animal communities, and plants carried to Hawai'i by the early Polynesians. Twenty federally-listed species of plant and animals have been identified within the park.



The park's boundary extends for a quarter mile offshore and includes 2,000 acres of ocean, two small islands and wet shorelines. All support a wealth of fish and wildlife resources. On the islands, 'Okala and Huelo, are loulu lelo palm the only native genus of palms, and the endemic pua'ala, which can be found only on the sea cliffs and off shore

islands of Moloka'i from Kalaupapa east to Halawa. Endangered sea birds (Dark-rumped Petrel and Newell's Shearwater) are seen, and sea turtles (Green and Hawksbill) and humpback whales pass by off shore. The endangered Hawaiian Monk seal finds seclusion on Kalaupapa beaches, and pups have been born here.

(The coastal spray zone, located along the northeast shore of the peninsula contains predominantly native plant communities. This habitat contains several federally endangered plants including the endemic haha, alani and the threatened *Tetramolopium rockii* that is found only in northwest Moloka'i. The endangered Carter's Panic Grass can be found on the Kuka'iwa'a Peninula. Native Hawaiian vegetation in the coastal spray zone includes 'illima, hinahina, and naupaka.



#### DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Native vegetation can also be found within Kauhako Crater. Endemic ohe' makai and wiliwili low elevation dryland forest in the crater is the only remaining windward coast community of its type known in Hawai'i. At the bottom of the crater is a lake less than one acre in surface area, and more than 800 feet deep, containing sub-species of shrimp, which may be unique to this lake.

Twenty known lava tubes and caves on the peninsula contain endemic invertebrate species and as yet uninventoried flora and fauna. The Kauhako Trench, a collapsed lava tube about one mile in length and running north from Kauhako Crater, contains vegetation established in an environment protected from wind and ocean spray as well as browsing and trampling by deer and pigs.

*Na pali*, or sea cliffs, rising up to 5,000 feet above the peninsula and ocean separates the peninsula from the rest of the island of Moloka'i native vegetation such as 'awikiwiki, and makou survives here because of the relative inaccessibility. Hala trees are native to Hawaii and can grow from the shorelines to 1,000 feet elevation on the cliffs. Endangered Moloka'i creepers and honeycreepers are found here, and endangered sea birds nest in these cliffs. This area has been designated as the north Shore Cliffs National Natural Landmark, recognized as a significant remaining example of sea cliffs in the nations natural heritage.



Waikolu Valley contains the park's sole perennial stream, and one of only four streams on the entire island of Moloka'i. The stream contains all five native diadromous (goby) fish species, native snails and shrimp. Surface

## DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

and groundwater withdrawn from Waikolu is the source of most water for the entire western half of Moloka'i.

Pu'u Ali'i-'Ohi'alele plateau, on top the cliffs to the east of Waikolu Valley, is one of the best examples of 'ohi'a rain forest in Hawai'i. It provides essential habitat for endangered native forest birds, including the 'Amakihi, 'Apapane and the iiwi. In this intact native forest are varieties of ferns and peperomia.

Polynesian plant introductions can be found on the peninsula and throughout Kalaupapa settlement. Hawaiians used ti for food wrappers, thatch for houses, and sandals. The bark of wauke was beaten into fiber for *kapa* cloth. Bananas and coconut palms provided food, while noni provided medicine and dye. Kukui seeds were burned for light, and are still used for making *na lei*. Kamani seeds are also used for *na lei*.

Invasive, non-native plants are a severe problem throughout the state of Hawai'i. Within the park the most predominant alien vegetation is common guava, strawberry guava, common ironwood, Java plum, mango, Christmas berry, koa haole, and lantana. These aliens threaten the remaining native and endemic vegetation.

Non-native animals damage the remaining native plants and animals as Well. Beef cattle, brought in for residents of the isolation settlement, have been removed from the peninsula but other introduced animals remain, including axis deer and feral goats, pigs, and cats. Mongoose and rats are also present. None of these animals have natural predators, and all threaten what remains of Hawai'i's natural heritage at Kalaupapa NHP.

### **The Hawaiians**

For at least 900 years they lived and thrived on the Kalaupapa Peninsula. Archeological evidence of their lives and connection with the *'aina*, or land, is everywhere, from their house sites to their irrigated taro fields to their stone walls. Historical accounts from the early to mid-1800s speak of populations of 1,000 to 2,700 people living on the peninsula, in the valleys, and in the villages.

Whereas the history of the Hansen's disease isolation settlement on the peninsula is a mere 150+ years old, native Hawaiian people occupied the valleys and flat lands of Kalaupapa for generation after generation. There are several stories and legends connected with this land, telling of events occurring before European contact. There are Hawaiian burials on the peninsula as well.

## DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

The *ahupua'a* is the basic land division in traditional Hawaiian society. Within this division, running from the uplands (*mauka*) to the sea (*makai*), could be found all of the resources needed to sustain Hawaiian life. People gathered sea salt and caught fish and other marine life from the ocean and tidal pools, conducted agriculture on the dry lands and wet valleys, obtained fresh water from perennial streams, and harvested the hardwood forests for many uses, including housing and canoes.

There are three *ahupua'a* on the peninsula itself; a fourth is included within the national park boundary. The natural environment and resources found within the *ahupua'a* of Kalaupapa, Makanalua, Kalawao, and Waikolu was rich enough to support human habitation For hundreds of years.

For Hawaiians involved with agriculture, there were three types of land Available for growing crops. *Ko Kaha Kai* was land along the shoreline. *Kula* lands were on the lands above the shoreline; these dry lands usually required irrigation. *Kahiawai* lands were in the valleys, where fresh water could also be obtained. At Kalaupapa the *kula* lands were important for growing or sweet potatoes ('uala).



It is not known how or when sweet potatoes arrived in Hawai'i from South America, but after European contact, early visitors to Kalaupapa remarked on the numerous potato patches and stone windrows. In 1854 French botanist Jules Remy visited the village of Kalaupapa and remarked:

Not having seen in the fields of Kalaupapa coconut trees, Pandanus, taro, I asked these people why these were not planted. They replied that it was not their custom, and as regards the taro, the ground was not suitable for its cultivation; it produced potatoes in any amount at will and these could be readily exchanged for products cultivated in Waikolu.

Kalaupapa sweet potatoes were not just exported throughout the Hawaiian Islands but to California as well. During the gold rush years of 1849-51 ships came directly from San Francisco to Kalaupapa to load sweet potatoes to feed the booming mining population. Potato exports lasted until Kalaupapa's history changed forever in 1866.

If Kalaupapa Peninsula and its neighboring valleys once supported a sizeable population, the number of people living there when the isolation settlement was established was much smaller. As throughout the rest of Hawai'i, a series of epidemics in the mid- to late 1800s decimated the native Hawaiian population. By 1853, about 140 people lived in the village of Kalaupapa, 60 in Kalawao and 140 in Waikolu Valley.

In 1866 when the first leprosy patients were left at Kalawao, the remaining original inhabitants were subsequently moved with the sale of their lands to the Board of Health. By 1900, non-patient Hawaiians were gone from the entire peninsula. Nine hundred years of connection with the *'aina* was broken.

### **Settlement History**

Few places in the world better illustrate the human capacity for endurance or for charity than the remote Kalaupapa Peninsula, on the island of Moloka'i. The area achieved notoriety in 1865 when the Kingdom of Hawai'i instituted a century-long policy of forced segregation of persons afflicted with Hansen's disease, also known as leprosy. The Legislative Assembly passed, and King Kamehameha V approved, "An Act to Prevent the Spread of Leprosy" to set apart land to seclude people believed capable of spreading the disease.

But why was this place chosen to isolate people with a seemingly incurable illness? Foremost, the Kalaupapa Peninsula was isolated and fairly inaccessible. To the south, a sheer *pali* about 2,000 feet high cut off the peninsula from the rest of Moloka'i. The ocean surrounded the east, north, and west sides. In good weather, landings were only practical at Kalaupapa and Kalawao; both inhabited by Hawaiians.

Second, the land could support people. Vegetables such as sweet potatoes, fruits, and taro could be grown in the *pali* valleys and on the considerable

amount of flat land. The ocean and tidal pools provided food and fresh water was available from Waikolu Valley and Waihanau Valley.

Once the decision was made, and the law passed, the government proceeded to purchase lands and move the native Hawaiian residents to other homes. The village of Kalawao on the isolated Kalaupapa Peninsula thus became home to thousands of leprosy victims subsequently moved here from throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

Hawai'i's actions brought attention to the mysterious and dreaded disease that reached epidemic proportions in the islands in the late 1800's. With new cases threatening to eradicate the native population and no knowledge of what caused the disease, officials were desperate. At the time, there was no effective treatment and no cure. To government officials, isolation seemed the only answer.

On January 6, 1866, the first group of nine men and three women leprosy patients were dropped off at the mouth of Waikolu Valley, the closest accessible point to Kalawao on the southeast side of the peninsula. By October, 101 men and 41 women had been left to survive as could.

### **The Early Years**

Controversy and concern surrounded the isolation settlement from the beginning. At first the territorial government's Board of Health thought patients would be self-supporting. After all, Hawaiian people had lived on the peninsula for hundreds of years, sustaining themselves and raising sweet potatoes for export. Indeed, the very first patients moved into houses left behind by Hawaiians who had lived in the area.

It soon became apparent that most patients were too ill or demoralized to be self-sufficient. Reports filed by the resident superintendent; by the Board of Health agent Rudolph W. Meyer, who lived on top the *pali* overlooking the settlement; and complaints by patients and their families all spoke of the insufficient supplies and housing. With no hope or will to live, some patients fell into vice and immorality. As stories spread of the deplorable conditions, many Hawaiian people hid their afflicted relatives and friends, hoping to prevent their discovery and a one-way trip to certain death. Others chose to go into isolation with their loved ones as a *kokua*, or helper.

In spite of the Board of Health's efforts to improve conditions, including building a hospital and homes, supplies of food and clothing, housing, and medical care could not keep up with the numbers of people being sent to Kalawao. Starting in 1875 major improvements were made due to the arrival of Father Damien (Joseph De Veuster) and the interest and support

of the next two Hawaiian kings, William Charles Lunalilo and David Kalakaua.

"Though the houses are at some distance from one another, the lepers have meals in common. Each receives seven pounds of beef every week, and twenty-one pounds of a vegetable which we call 'taro,' which we consider very nourishing. Besides this we have planted a large field of sweet potatoes, which we keep in reserve in case the ordinary provisions should not reach us in time."

Father Damien De Veuster, letter to his brother Pamphile  
January 31, 1880

### **The Move to Kalaupapa**

During the years 1888 to 1902, the isolation laws in Hawaii were strictly enforced and the population at Kalawao swelled to over 1,100. During this period the Bishop Home for girls opened in Kalaupapa (managed by Mother Marianne Cope and Sisters of St. Francis) and the Baldwin Home for boys opened in Kalawao (managed by Brother Joseph Dutton and Brothers of the Sacred Heart). It was also during This time that people began gradually moving to the west side of the peninsula to the Hawaiian fishing village of Kalaupapa.



father Damien with grils, Kalawao

The Board of Health began relocating patients and facilities from the windward side of the peninsula to the leeward side, where the climate was warmer and dryer, and where freight, and passengers could be landed more easily. Water lines were extended from Waikolu Valley to Kalaupapa to supply fresh water.

In 1893-94, the Board of Health took steps to deal with the last regaining non-patient native Hawaiians living in Kalaupapa and on the peninsula. The isolation settlement was expanded to include not just Kalawao, but the entire peninsula and all trails and lands to the top of the *pali*. The last remaining private property was purchased and all non-patients removed. The centuries-long inhabitation of the Kalaupapa Peninsula by non-patient native Hawaiian people came to an end.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE



Bishop Home

### **Early 20th Century**

Starting in 1900, the Board of Health implemented a plan to provide high quality services, facilities, utilities, and medical care for patients at Kalaupapa. A major construction program began, with individual cottages, dormitories, hospital facilities and other buildings being built. In 1902, Dr. William J. Goodhue became resident physician and John D. McVeigh became the settlement's superintendent. These two men worked to improve the quality of life within isolation by promoting sports and other activities, improving medical procedures, and by treating patients with respect as human beings.

There are hospitals for the helpless, and boys' and girls' homes. Churches, schools, and means of entertainment are provided. Athletic sports are common. Every possible means is used to remove the feeling arising from restraint. Medical attendance is constant. Members of both sexes of religious orders devote themselves to the care of these unfortunates. Every provision for support and comfort is made free of cost.

Report of the Governor of the Territory of Hawaii  
to the Secretary of the Interior, 1904

## DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

In the 1900s, the Federal Government built two facilities on the peninsula. The Moloka'i Light station was built on the northern tip of the peninsula to help guide westbound vessels into Honolulu harbor on O'ahu. Opened in 1910, a succession of lighthouse keepers and their families lived at the station, segregated from the rest of the population. Over in Kalawao, a hospital complex was built to conduct Hansen's disease research. The Public Health and Marine Hospital Service operated the U.S. Leprosy Investigation Station from 1909-13. In spite of superior facilities and generous funding, isolation and an inability to attract patients willing to undergo medical and drug experiments led to its early closing.

By 1919, treatments of chaulmoogra oil, derived from seeds of trees found in India and Southeast Asia, offered hope as a cure for Hansen's disease. People dared to think Kalaupapa settlement could be closed. After ten years, however, belief in the curative powers of the oil waned. Despite the years of medical research a cure seemed as remote as ever.

Kalaupapa's physical infrastructure was in need of an overhaul. Territory of Hawai'i Governor Lawrence M. Judd reorganized the leprosy control program in the early 1950s and undertook ambitious construction and rehabilitation projects. State-of-the-art water and power systems were installed; facilities such as a hospital, store, service station, and houses were built; and roads paved. After Brother Joseph Dutton died in 1931, an old hospital was adapted as a new home for boys at Kalaupapa.

Kalaupapa, . . . is a settlement where the individuals are permitted to live their lives pretty much as they wish. They maintain their own homes in separate cottages and may have a garden, raise chickens, and live under conditions similar to those elsewhere.

Annual Report of the Governor of Hawaii  
to the Secretary of the Interior, 1938

## **Post World War II**

Dramatic changes both in the treatment of Hansen's disease and in attitudes towards patients occurred with the discovery of sulfone drugs as a cure for the disease. Introduced into Hawaii in 1946, the new medications brought almost immediate reductions of symptoms and vast improvements in the quality of health and life.

Former Governor Lawrence M. Judd became Kalaupapa's resident superintendent in 1947 and he and his wife Eva Marie promoted social activities and adult education classes. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Lion's Club, American Legion, and other organizations opened Kalaupapa to the wider

*DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE*

world. Many remaining physical barriers separating patients from workers were removed.

With drug therapies, Hansen's disease patients were no longer contagious. There was no further need for isolation. In 1969, the century-old laws were finally abolished. Former Hansen's disease patients living in Kalaupapa today have chosen to remain here, most for the rest of their lives.

Kalaupapa has been home for 100 years for people once cast from Society, but it is in transition due to its ever-decreasing patient population. It is quieter than it once was. There are fewer buildings. Life is lived at a somewhat slower pace. But Kalaupapa remains a remarkable place with an extraordinary history--a place exhibiting the worst and the best of human responses to the challenge of sickness.

## PARTNERSHIPS

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The National Park Service at Kalaupapa NHP has three partners in providing interpretation and visitor experience.

The Arizona Memorial Museum Association manages sales of theme-related educational materials and souvenirs. The cooperating association also supports a quality visitor experience within the park by providing funding for interpretation and research projects.

Moloka'i Mule Ride, Inc. is an NPS concession and provides mule rides for visitors traveling the Kalaupapa Trail. Muleskinners provide park information and orientation.

Damien Tours provides the only regularly scheduled interpretive tours of the park. Owner/operator Richard Marks is a long-time Kalaupapa resident and former Hansen's disease patient. He and his staff also provide logistical support for fishing groups, news media, religious groups, and other special services.

## LIBRARY AND COLLECTION NEEDS

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Kalaupapa NHP does not have an established park resource library or archive of administrative materials. Cultural and natural resource managers at the park have collected a limited amount of resource data, which is consulted in daily work.

Published titles in natural and cultural history should be acquired for the park. Copies of primary source documentation (written and visual) should be acquired for interpretation and research purposes. Sources for original historical documents in Honolulu include the Hawai'i State Library, Hawai'i State Archives and Bishop Museum. A local source for historical photographs is the Kalaupapa Historical Society. This organization is not active, but in the 1980s its members gathered copies of Kalaupapa materials. These materials are stored in the AJA Hall outbuilding, and are in locked file cabinets. Access has not yet been granted to park staff.

Currently, there is limited space and storage for library and archive materials. Storage of these materials in historic, wooden buildings poses a potential loss through fire and insect infestations. Adequate storage, file cabinets and bookshelves are needed. Such a storage space should be temperature and humidity controlled to protect library and archive materials.

The park's museum collections are in substandard curatorial storage with limited accessibility. Very little of the collection is used for interpretive or research purposes. However, funding has been secured to upgrade storage and work spaces in the Old Jail and Police Headquarters in the next few years. The Edward Kato workshop/studio and Kenso Seki house and garage/workshop were acquired in 1998 and will be used in the future as house museums for interpreting patient lifestyles.

## RESEARCH NEEDS

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Kalaupapa NHP's Resource Management Plan (1994) contains many project statements for research and resource protection. As these projects are funded and completed in the coming years, the park's baseline documentation will be completed and knowledge of resource condition and park themes will be increased. Ongoing research and documentation will provide quality information for use in interpretive programs and media.

### **Major areas of future research:**

Status of Endangered Flora and Fauna

Inventory Marine Reef

Inventory Resources of Kauhako Crater

Inventory Vascular Plants and Vegetation

Inventory Bird and Bat Populations

Inventory Arthropod Taxa in Seas

Ethnography

Cultural Landscape Inventories and Reports

Archeological Surveys

Archeological Overview

Historic Structure Reports

## STAFFING NEEDS

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Currently, Kalaupapa NHP does not have a division of interpretation or visitor services. Park staff conduct occasional tours and outreach programs whenever possible. From 1997-99, the park historian had interpretive responsibilities (media, project funding, planning) as collateral duty.

The NPS should prepare for the eventual assumption of daily visitor services and interpretation if or when Damien Tours no longer offers regularly scheduled park tours, presuming these services are not provided by another Hansen's disease patient. Skilled park ranger interpreters should be added to the park staff at that time. Volunteers with interpretive training or experience can provide supplemental programs.

## THE PLAN

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Because of the uncertainty surrounding future land management and ownership, nature of visitation, and availability of patient-provided tours, the following proposals are grouped into short-term and long-term actions that the NPS, with its current and future interpretive partners, could undertake. These are in no priority order.

These options allow the NPS to meet its 1916 mandate to "provide for the enjoyment" of the park's resources when visitation and interpretation is strictly limited.

Any new interpretive media would refer to or use Hansen's disease patient oral histories available on digital tape and in typed transcripts.

See the appendix for Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media, Harpers Ferry Center.

### **SHORT-TERM (5-15 years)**

Because current visitation and MRS interpretation in the park is limited, emphasis for the short term is in expanding interpretation for sponsored visitors in the park, and in expanding outreach education and interpretation opportunities.

#### Options:

- Promote visitor interaction with former Hansen's disease patients living in Kalaupapa and off-island.
- Develop self-guided tours (audiotapes, written guides) of Kalaupapa settlement.
- Install new exhibits, e.g., artifacts, audiovisual elements with patient oral histories, or interactive computer stations, at AJA Hall visitor center, Kalaupapa Airport Ho'olehua Airport U.S. Coast Guard Moloka'i Light trailhead at bottom of Kalaupapa Trail, and Pala'au State Park.
- Work cooperatively with the state of Hawai'i to develop educational materials about Kalaupapa, based upon Hawaii curriculum; options include "Teaching with Historic Sites," a program sponsored by the National Register of Historic Places, and the "Parks as Classrooms" program sponsored by the national Park Foundation.
- Continue expansion of the park's Internet web site. Future materials may include descriptions of park resources, interpretive and edu-

## THE PLAN

cational materials, segments of oral interviews with Hansen's disease patients, and historic photographs.

- Update the official NPS map and guide for Kalaupapa NHP; this is scheduled for FY 00 with the Harpers Ferry Center, Division of Publications.
- Develop a compact disc (CD-ROM) with Kalaupapa NHP interpretive and educational materials.
- 
- Develop a series of three NPS handbooks on Kalaupapa NHP, focusing on natural resources, Hawaiian history and culture, the historic Hansen's disease settlements at Kalaupapa and Kalawao.
- Develop audiovisual tapes about park resources and themes for distribution to individuals, groups, schools, etc.
- Develop exhibits cooperatively with the Damien Museum or the Department of Health in Honolulu, emphasizing the lives of patients.
- Promote the visitation of graves and research of family history associations with Kalaupapa settlement.
- Develop a cadre of volunteers to lead interpretive tours of park resources. These programs would emphasize natural history resources and issues, archeology, and other topics not interpreted in the current commercial tours. With the recent donations (1998) of Edward Kato's work-shop/studio and Kenso Seki's home and garage/workshop to the NPS, tours could be developed to interpret representative patient lifestyles.
- Interpret the historic Waikolu Valley water system.

### **LONG-TERM (15-30+ years)**

As Kalaupapa undergoes a transition from a home for former Hansen's disease patients to an "open" national park, possibilities will exist for increased access and higher amounts of visitation. The NPS and its interpretive partners would be responsible for a visitor services and interpretation program.

Options:

## *THE PLAN*

- Develop an expanded museum/visitor center to interpret all park resources and themes. Paschoal Hall has been discussed as a potential site for this purpose.
- Develop additional wayside exhibits for natural and archeological features throughout the peninsula.
- Update/redesign/replace extant wayside exhibits at Pala'au State Park and throughout Kalaupapa settlement.
- Sponsor retreats or work camps, consistent with park themes and values, at Kalaupapa settlement for individual people and/or organizations.
- Sponsor workshops (art photography) consistent with park themes and values.
- Develop a cultural ethnobotanical garden to interpret and provide a nursery for Hawaiian and Polynesian flora.
- Provide for visitor camping or stays in beach houses.
- Promote traditional Hawaiian use and settlement of Kalaupapa Peninsula.

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PHOTO CREDITS

Page 6 - Photo by Alonzo Qautley, Bishop Museum, Honolulu

Page 27 (top) - Bishop Museum, Honolulu

Page 27 (bottom) - Damien Museum and Archive, Honolulu

All other photos -- National Park Service, Kalaupapa national Historical Park

Note: Patient quotes were taken from Gugelyk and Bloombaum text. Interviews with patients took place c. 1978.

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# APPENDIX

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**Special Populations:  
Programmatic Accessibility  
Guidelines for Interpretive Media**

**National Park Service  
Harpers Ferry Center**

**June 1996**

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## **Statement of Purpose**

This document is a guide for promoting full access to interpretive media to ensure that people with physical and mental disabilities have access to the same information necessary for safe and meaningful visits to national Parks. Just as the needs and abilities of individuals cannot be reduced to simple statements, it is impossible to construct guidelines for interpretive media that can apply to every situation in the National Park System.

These guidelines define a high level of programmatic access which can be met in most situations. They articulate key areas of concern and note generally accepted solutions.

Due to the diversity of park resources and the variety of interpretive situations, flexibility and versatility are important.

Each interpretive medium contributes to the total park program. All media have inherent strengths and weaknesses, and it is our intent to capitalize on their strengths and provide alternatives where they are deficient. It should also be understood that any interpretive medium is just one component of the overall park experience, in some instances, especially with regard to learning disabilities, personal services, that is one-on-one interaction, may be the most appropriate and versatile interpretive approach.

In the final analysis, interpretive design is subjective, and dependent on both aesthetic considerations as well as the particular characteristics and resources available for a specific program. Success or failure should be evaluated by examining all interpretive offerings of a park. Due to the unique characteristics of each situation, parks should be evaluated on a case by case basis. Nonetheless, the goal is to fully comply with HPS policy;

"...To provide the highest level of accessibility possible and feasible for persons with visual, hearing, mobility, and mental impairments, consistent with the obligation to conserve park resources and preserve the quality of the park experience for everyone."

NPS Special Directive 85-5, Accessibility for Disabled Persons

## **Audiovisual Programs**

Audiovisual programs include motion pictures, sound/slide programs, video programs, and oral history programs. As a matter of policy, all audiovisual programs produced by the Harpers Ferry Center will include some method of captioning. The Approach used will vary according to the

conditions of the installation area and the media format used, and will be selected in consultation with the parks and regions.

The captioning method will be identified as early as possible in the planning process and will be presented in an integrated setting where possible. To the extent possible, visitors will be offered a choice in viewing captioned or uncaptioned versions, but in situations where a choice is not possible or feasible be made available. Park management will decide on the most appropriate operational approach for the particular site.

### **Guidelines Affecting Mobility Impaired Visitors**

1. The theater, auditorium, or viewing area should be accessible and free of architectural barriers, or alternative accommodations will be provided, UFAS 4.1.
2. Wheelchair locations will be provided according to ratios outlined in UFAS 4.1.2(18a).
3. Viewing heights and angles will be favorable for those in designated wheelchair locations.
4. In designing video or interactive components, control mechanisms will be placed in accessible location, usually between 9" and 48" from the ground and no more than 24" deep.

### **Guidelines Affecting Visually Impaired Visitors**

1. Simultaneous audio description will be considered for installations where the equipment can be properly installed and maintained.

### **Guidelines Affecting Hearing Impaired Visitors**

1. All audiovisual programs will be produced with appropriate captions.
2. Copies of scripts will be provided to the parks as a standard procedure.
3. Audio amplification and listening systems will be provided in accordance with UFA5 412(18b).

### **Guidelines Affecting Learning Impaired Visitors**

1. Unnecessarily complex and confusing concepts will be avoided.
2. Graphic elements will be chosen to communicate without reliance on the verbal component

3. Narration will be concise and free of unnecessary jargon and technical information.

### **Exhibits**

Numerous factors affect the design of exhibits, reflecting the unique circumstances of the specific space and the nature of the materials to be interpreted. It is clear that thoughtful, sensitive design can go a long way in producing exhibits that can be enjoyed by a broad range of people. Yet due to the diversity of situations encountered, it is impossible to articulate guidelines that can be applied universally.

In some situations, the exhibit designer has little or no control over the space.

Often exhibits are placed in areas ill suited for that purpose, they may incorporate large or unyielding specimens, may incorporate sensitive artifacts which require special environmental controls, and room decor or architectural features may dictate certain solutions. All in all, exhibit design is an art which defies simple description. However, one central concern is to communicate the message to the largest audience possible. Every reasonable effort will be made to eliminate any factors limiting communication through physical modification or by providing an alternate means of communication.

### **Guidelines Affecting Mobility Impaired Visitors**

1. Exhibit space will be free of physical barriers or a method of alternate accommodation shall be provided.

2. All pathways, aisles, and clearances will meet standards set forth in UFAS 4.5. Generally a minimum width of 56" will be provided.

3. Ramps will be as gradual as possible and will not exceed a slope of 1" rise in 12" run, and otherwise conform with UFAS 4.8.

4. Important artifacts, labels, and graphics, will be placed at a comfortable viewing level relative to their size. Important text will be viewable to all visitors. Display cases will allow short or seated people to view the contents and the labels. Video monitors associated with exhibits will be positioned to be comfortably viewed by all visitors.

5. Lighting will be designed to reduce glare or reflections, especially when viewed from a wheelchair.

6. Ground and floor surfaces near the exhibit area will be stable, level firm, and slip-resistant (UFAS 4.5).

7. Operating controls or objects to be handled by visitors will be located in an area between 9" and 48" from the ground and no more than 24" deep.

(UFAS 4.5)

8. Horizontal exhibits (e.g. terrain model) will be located at a comfortable viewing height.

9. Information desks and sales counters will be designed for use by visitors and employees using wheelchairs, and will include a section with a desk height no greater than 52 to 54 inches, with at least a 50 inch clearance underneath. The width should be a minimum of 52 inches vertical, with additional space provided for cash registers or other equipment, as applicable.

10. Accessibility information about the specific park should be available at the information desk and the international symbol of access will be displayed where access information is disseminated.

11. Railings and barriers will be positioned in such a way as to provide unobstructed viewing by persons in wheelchairs.

### **Guidelines Affecting Visually Impaired Visitors**

1. Exhibit typography will be selected with readability and legibility in mind.

2. Characters and symbols shall contrast with their backgrounds, either light characters on a dark background or dark characters on a light background. (UFAS 4.50.5)

3. Tactile and participatory elements will be included where possible.

4. Audio description will be provided where applicable.

5. Signage will be provided to indicate accessible rest rooms, telephones, and rest rooms elevators. (UFAS 4.50)

### **Guidelines Affecting Hearing Impaired Visitors**

1. Information presented via audio formats will be duplicated in a visual medium, either in the exhibit copy or by printed material.

2. Amplification systems and volume controls will be incorporated to make programs accessible to the hard of hearing.

3. Written text of all audio narrations will be provided.

4. All narrated AV programs will be captioned.
5. Allowance for Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) will be included into information desk designs.

### **Guidelines Affecting Learning Impaired Visitors**

1. Exhibits will avoid unnecessarily complex and confusing topics.
2. Graphic elements will be developed to communicate non-verbally.
3. Unfamiliar expressions and technical terms will be avoided and pronunciation aids will be provided where appropriate.
4. To the extent possible, information will be provided in a manner suitable to a diversity of abilities and interests.
5. Where possible, exhibits will be multi-sensory. Techniques to maximize the number of senses utilized in an exhibit will be encouraged.
6. Exhibit design will be cognizant of directional handicaps and will utilize color and other creative approaches to facilitate comprehension of maps.

### **Historic Furnishings**

Historically refurbished rooms offer the public a unique interpretive experience by placing visitors within historic spaces. Surrounded by historic artifacts visitors can feel the spaces "come alive" and relate more directly to the historic events or personalities commemorated by the park.

Accessibility is problematical in many NPS furnished sites because of the very nature of historic architecture. Buildings were erected with a functional point of view that is many times at odds with our modern views of accessibility.

The approach used to convey the experience of historically furnished spaces will vary from site to site. The goals, however, will remain the same, to give the public as rich an interpretive experience as possible given the nature of the structure.

### **Guidelines Affecting Mobility Impaired Visitors**

1. The exhibit space should be free of architectural barriers or a method of alternate accommodation should be provided, such as slide programs, videotaped tours, visual aids, dioramas, etc.

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2. All pathways, aisles, and clearances shall (when possible) meet standards set forth in UFAS 4.5 to provide adequate clearance for wheelchair routes,
3. Ramps shall be as gradual as possible and not exceed a F rise in 12" run, and conform with UFAS 4.8.
4. Railings and room barriers will be constructed in such a way as to provide unobstructed viewing by persons in wheelchairs.
5. In the planning and design process, furnishing inaccessible areas, such as upper floors of historic buildings, will be discouraged unless essential for interpretation,
6. Lighting will be designed to reduce glare or reflections when viewed from a wheelchair.
7. Alternative methods of interpretation, such as audiovisual programs, audio description, photo albums, and personal services will be used in areas which present difficulty for the physically impaired.

### **Guidelines Affecting Visually Impaired Visitors**

1. Exhibit typefaces will be selected for readability and legibility, and conform with good industry practice.
2. Audio description will be used to describe furnished rooms, where appropriate.
3. Windows will be treated with film to provide balanced light levels and minimize glare.
4. Where appropriate, visitor-controlled rheostat-type lighting will be provided to augment general room lighting.
5. Where appropriate and when proper clearance has been approved, surplus artifacts or reproductions will be utilized as "hands-on" tactile interpretive devices.

### **Guidelines Affecting Hearing Impaired Visitors**

1. Information about room interiors will be presented in a visual medium such as exhibit copy/ text pamphlets/ etc.
2. Captions will be provided for all A V programs relating to historic furnishings.

### **Guidelines Affecting the Learning Impaired**

1. Where appropriate, hands-on participatory elements geared to the level of visitor capabilities will be used.
2. Living history activities and demonstrations which utilize the physical space as a method of providing multi-sensory experiences will be encouraged.

### **Publications**

A variety of publications are offered to visitors, ranging from park folders which provide an overview and orientation to a park to more comprehensive handbooks. Each park folder should give a brief description of services available to the disabled, list significant barriers, and note the existence of TDD phone numbers, if available.

In addition, informal site bulletins are often produced to provide more specialized information about a specific site or topic. It is recommended that each park produce an easily updatable "Accessibility Site Bulletin" which could include detailed information about the specific programs, services, and opportunities available for the disabled and to describe barriers which are present in the park. These bulletins should be in reasonably large type, 18 points or larger.

### **Guidelines Affecting Mobility Impaired Visitors**

1. Park folders, site bulletins, and sales literature will be distributed from accessible locations and heights.
2. Park folders and Accessibility Site Bulletins should endeavor to carry information on the accessibility of buildings, trails/ and programs by the disabled.

### **Guidelines Affecting Visually Impaired Visitors**

1. Publications will be designed with the largest type size appropriate for the format.

2. Special publications designed for use by the visually impaired should be printed in 18 point type.

3. The information contained in the park folder should also be available on audio cassette. Handbooks, accessibility guides, and other publications should be similarly recorded where possible.

### **Guidelines Affecting Hearing Impaired Visitors**

1. Park site bulletins will note the availability of such special services as sign language interpretation and captioned programs.

### **Guidelines Affecting Learning Impaired Visitors**

1. The park site bulletin should list any special services available to this group.

### **Wayside Exhibits**

Wayside exhibits, which include outdoor interpretive exhibits and signs, orientation shelter exhibits, trailhead exhibits, and bulletin boards, offer special advantages to disabled visitors. The liberal use of photographs, artwork, diagrams, and maps, combined with highly readable type, make wayside exhibits an excellent medium for visitors with hearing and learning impairments. For visitors with sight impairments, waysides offer large type and high legibility.

Although a limited number of NPS wayside exhibits will always be inaccessible to visitors with mobility impairments, the great majority are placed at accessible pullouts, viewpoints, parking areas, and trailheads. ,

The NPS accessibility guidelines for wayside exhibits help insure a standard of quality that will be appreciated by all visitors, nearly everyone benefits from high quality graphics, readable type, comfortable base designs, accessible locations, hard-surfaced exhibit pads, and well-landscaped exhibit sites.

While waysides are valuable on-site “interpreters,” it should be remembered that the park resources themselves are the primary things visitors come to experience. Good waysides focus attention on the features they interpret, and not on themselves. A wayside exhibit is only one of the many interpretive tools which visitors can use to enhance their appreciation of a park.

### **Guidelines Affecting Mobility Impaired Visitors**

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1. Wayside exhibits will be installed at accessible locations whenever possible.
2. Wayside exhibits will be installed at heights and angles favorable for viewing by most visitors including those in wheelchairs. For standard NPS low-profile units the recommended height is 50 inches from the bottom edge of the exhibit panel to the finished grade; for vertical exhibits the height of 6-28 inches.
3. Trailhead exhibits will include an accessibility advisory.
4. Wayside exhibits sites will have level, hard surfaced exhibit pads.
5. Exhibit sites will offer clear, unrestricted views of park features described in exhibits.

### **Guidelines Affecting Visually Impaired Visitors**

1. Exhibit type will be as legible and readable as possible.
2. Panel colors will be selected to reduce eye strain and glare, and to provide excellent readability under field conditions. White should not be used as a background color.
5. Selected wayside exhibits may incorporate audio stations or tactile elements such as models, texture blocks, and relief maps.